



GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

FACT SHEET: Rita

-- UPDATED--6:00 pm--

Sunday, September 25, 2005

- This is **Day 1** since Hurricane Rita made landfall.
- On Tuesday, **September 20, 2005**, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco declared a State of Emergency for the State of Louisiana in preparation of Hurricane Rita.
- As of 9:00 am today, **47** parishes have declared **States of Emergency** due to Hurricane Rita.
 - These parishes include: Vermillion, Jefferson Davis, Tensas, Lafayette, Cameron, St James, Iberia, Sabine, Calcasieu, Vernon, Natchitoches, St. Mary, Caddo, Bossier, Ouachita, Jefferson, Acadia, Allen, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, St. Landry, Tangipahoa, Rapides, Livingston, Terrebonne, Evangeline, Beauregard, Richland, West Baton Rouge, Plaquemines, Winn, Morehouse, Avoyelles, Iberville, Concordia, East Carroll, West Feliciana, Union, West Carroll, Pointe Coupee, Jackson, Madison, Red River, Orleans, Catahoula, Ascension and Caldwell.
- **Emergency Response**
 - The following operations are underway in **Vermillion, Calcasieu** and **Cameron** parishes and in other areas affected by Hurricane Katrina:
 - Search and rescue missions
 - Commodity distribution (including food, ice and water)
 - Distribution of generators for critical government infrastructures
 - Debris removal
 - Preliminary disaster assessments
 - **Calcasieu Parish OEP** officials have advised Calcasieu residents **NOT** to return to their homes until further notice.
 - To date, there are **NO** reported fatalities, due to Hurricane Rita.
- **Utility Services**
 - Local, state and federal agencies are working with utility providers to restore power and communications
 - As of 12:00 noon today:
 - Approximately **597,000** Louisianians are without **power**
 - Of these, approximately **370,000** outages are Rita-related
 - Of these, approximately **227,000** outages are Katrina-related
 - More than **350,000** Louisianians are without **telephone service**
 - More than **24,000** Louisianians are without **natural gas utilities**

*Data provided by the Louisiana Public Service Commission

- **Provisions**

- To date, there are nearly **18,000*** National Guard troops on the ground in Louisiana.
 - Of these, the National Guard has dedicated nearly **4,000** troops to Task Force Rita.
 - Task Force Rita is utilizing more than **30** helicopters, **30** boats and many high water vehicles in Rita related missions.
**Troops have been rotating in and out of Louisiana. The previously reported number has been revised.*
- **100** trucks of MREs, **150** trucks of ice, and **200** trucks of water were pre-staged prior to Rita's landfall and is now being distributed in response and recovery efforts.
- Approximately **1,000** buses were coordinated through state efforts and used to transport evacuees out of Southwest Louisiana.
- **245** boats and **260** personnel, coordinated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, were pre-staged prior to Rita's landfall and are now being used in search and rescues missions.
- State Police added **111** troopers to Southwest Louisiana in preparation for Rita.

- **Evacuations**

- **7 of 7** major refineries in Southwest Louisiana were evacuated and remain shut down, as of 7:00 pm Saturday.
- More than **634** platforms and **90** rigs* in the Gulf of Mexico were evacuated in preparation of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.
 - Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is working closely with industry contacts to facilitate the re-starting of oil and gas facilities ASAP.
**Data provided by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.*
- More than **2,200** inmates from the Southwest Louisiana area are being evacuated to other state and local facilities in Louisiana.
- LOHSEP reports **35** nursing homes and **10** hospitals evacuated from Southwest Louisiana in preparation for Hurricane Rita.

- **Shelters** (As of Saturday, September 25, 2005)

- **Louisiana Shelters:** More than **47,000** evacuees in more than **300** shelters in Louisiana.
- **Out of State Shelters:** More than **31,000** evacuees in more than **350** shelters throughout the United States.

- **State Office Re-openings & Closures** (Due to Rita)

- State offices in **3** additional parishes will **reopen** Wednesday, **September 28, 2005**.
 - These parishes include: Lafayette, Rapides and St. Landry.
- State offices in **16** parishes in will **remain closed** until **Monday, October 3, 2005**.
 - These parishes include: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Iberia, Vermilion, St. Mary, Lower St. Martin, Red River, Terrebonne, Sabine, Natchitoches, Vernon and Desoto.

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